

## Rear Admiral James M. Zortman Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet

Rear Admiral James M. Zortman is the 25th Commander of Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia. He assumed command on 10 July 2002.

Initial sea duty assignment was as Damage Control Assistant aboard USS GRAY (FF-1054). Following flight training at NAS Pensacola and training in the A6 Intruder, subsequent sea duty and

squadron assignments have included Attack Squadron 95 aboard CORAL SEA (CV-43) and AMERICA (CV-66), Attack Squadron 128, Assistant Navigator aboard CONSTELLATION (CV-64), and Attack Squadron 95 aboard ENTERPRISE (CVN-65).

Rear Admiral Zortman has commanded the Medium Attack Warfare School Pacific, Attack Squadron 52 aboard CARL VINSON (CVN-70) and KITTY HAWK (CV-63), and Carrier Air Wing Seventeen aboard ENTERPRISE

Assignments to shore and staff billets have included Medium Attack Tactical Electronic Warfare Wing, Joint Staff Directorate of Operations (J-3), Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group Fellow, and Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Rear Admiral Zortman served as the Director of Politico-Military Affairs on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He advised the CNO and Secretary of the Navy on world-wide politico-military policy matters, provided Department of the Navy representation on multinational boards and committees, served as the host for the Navy-to-Navy staff talks series, and represented the CNO in conventional security assistance and technology transfer programs.

Most recently, he served as Commander of Carrier Group SEVEN and the JOHN C. STENNIS Battle Group. Under his command the Battle Group participated in combat operations over Afghanistan from the North Arabian Sea in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Rear Admiral Zortman has logged over 2,500 hours and 900 carrier landings. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit awards.

Rear Admiral Zortman was born in Onawa, Iowa. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1973 with a degree in Economics.